

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SSO-00 OPR-02 SAJ-01 OMB-01 AID-05 PC-01 /074 W

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P R 191125Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5852

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CT, US, CG, UR

SUBJECT: BOKASSA'S REACTION TO ATTEMPTED COUP IN ZAIRE

REF: (A) STATE 142457? (B) BANGUI 0798

1. IN MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT MOBUTU READ PERSONALLY BY PRESIDENT BOKASSA OVER CAR RADIO ON JUNE 19, THE CAR PRESIDENT FOR LIFE CONGRATULATED MOBUTU FOR HIS SUCCESSFUL EVASION OF THE PLOT AGAINST HIS LIFE AND GOVERNMENT. BOKASSA STATED THAT HE, HIS GOVERNMENT, MESAN, AND ALL THE CENTRAL AFRICAN PEOPLE RISE AGAINST THE PERPETRATORS OF THIS PLOT BY THE FORCES OF IMPERIALISM AND NEOCOLONIALISM. BOKASSA DEMANDED THAT THE GUILTY BE PUNISHED. HE CONDEMNED COUPS D'ETAT IN GENERAL STATING THAT THE FORCES OF IMPERIALISM AND NEOCOLONIALISM IN AFRICA MUST BE PUT DOWN.

2. AT RECEPTION ON JUNE 18 ZAIRIAN AMBASSADOR KABEYAWA MUKEBA TOLD SEVERAL OF HIS COLLEAGUES INCLUDING ME THAT SOVIET DCM KIRSANOV HAD JUST APPROACHED HIM WITH GREAT SHOW OF COMMISERATION TO EXPRESS HIS SYMPATHY TO GOVERNMENT OF ZAIRE FOR HAVING BECOME VICTIM OF AMERICAN IMPERIALIST, CAPITALIST PLOTTING. MUKEBA STATED

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HE REPLIED THAT SOVIET IMPERIALISM WAS MUCH GREATER DANGER

TO AFRICA THAN THE AMERICANS.

3. THERE IS CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES IN ALLEGATIONS OF US INVOLVEMENT IN ATTEMPTED COUP. COMMENT TO ME HAS THUS FAR BEEN IN LIGHT VEIN WITH UNDER-CURRENT OF GENUINE CONCERN. WE HAVE BEEN GUIDED BY REFTEL (A) IN REPLYING.

4. COMMENT:

A. BOKASSA'S MESSAGE SUMMARIZED PARA 1 INTENDED PRIMARILY FOR LOCAL CONSUMPTION AND MAY BE CONSIDERED WARNING TO WHOEVER MIGHT BE THINKING OF COUP IN CAR. AFFAIR ALSO OFFERED CHANCE FOR FRATERNAL MESSAGE TO MBOUTU, HELPING TO SOOTHE RUFFLED RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO LEADERS.

B. SINCE BOKASSA DOES NOT SPECIFICALLY MENTION USG, HIS SPEECH DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN THAT WE WILL BECOME TARGET OF ACCUSATIONS OF COUP-PLOTTING BY BOKASSA, HOWEVER, AS REPORTED REFTEL (B) AND PREVIOUS WIRES, HE HAS STILL NOT DISSPELLED LOCAL DISSATISFACTION OVER HIS FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES AND CERTAIN OF HIS MINISTERS. HIS MESSAGE DOES PROVIDE A BASIS FOR SUBSEQUENT CAMPAIGN OF CHARGES AGAINST USG OR OTHERS IF HE WISHES FIND SCAPEGOAT.
DALE

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